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AMEMBASSY MANILA
AIT TAIPEI FROM AIT WASHDC 8888
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL PHRM, US, CH
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN'S DECEMBER 1 PRESS CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: QIAN EXPRESSED SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO SEND SECRETARY BAKER TO BAGHDAD AND CONTINUED HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE GULF CRISIS. ON THE BILATERAL SIDE, QIAN CHARACTERIZED HIS VISIT AS A VERY IMPORTANT EVENT IN US-CHINA RELATIONS BECAUSE FOR SOME TIME HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES HAD BEEN SUSPENDED. QIAN SAID THAT CHINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WAS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR, ALTHOUGH HE NOTED THAT SECRETARY BAKER HAD TOLD HIM HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN WERE A CORNERSTONE OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY; MENTIONED THAT HE HAD EXTENDED INVITATIONS TO SECRETARY BAKER, US' KIRKITT, US' BARTHOLOMEW AND A/S SCHIFTER TO VISIT CHINA AND THAT HE WELCOMED THE VISITS OF SCHIFTER AND BARTHOLOMEW WHICH HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 30. HE NOTED THAT NEITHER US SANCTIONS AGAINST CHINA NOR THE TAIWAN ISSUE HAD NOT BEEN RAISED DURING HIS VISIT AND HE CONTRASTED CHINA'S VIEW OF A NEW WORLD ORDER IN WHICH ALL COUNTRIES WERE EQUALS WITH A COMPETING VIEW THAT THE US AND USSR SOUGHT A MONOPOLY OF BIG POWERS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN BEGAN HIS DECEMBER 1 PRESS CONFERENCE BY THANKING HIS HOST SECRETARY BAKER, PRESIDENT BUSH, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE FOR HIS WARM RECEPTION. QIAN MADE NO OTHER OPENING STATEMENT

BEFORE TAKING QUESTIONS.

3. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

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ASKED FOR AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE VISIT, QIAN CHARACTERIZED IT AS A VERY IMPORTANT EVENT IN US-CHINA RELATIONS BECAUSE FOR SOME TIME HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES BETWEEN CHINA AND THE US HAD BEEN SUSPENDED. HE SAID THAT HIS PURPOSE IN COMING TO WASHINGTON WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIALS, FIRST ON THE GULF CRISIS, THEN ON SINO-US BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THROUGH THIS VISIT CHINA AND THE US HAD ENHANCED MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND QIAN EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT IN THE FUTURE THERE WILL BE MORE VISITS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE GULF

4. THE GULF AND QIAN'S VISIT LINKED? DEALS ON UNSC VOTED

QIAN AFFIRMED THAT THERE WAS NO DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE GULF CRISIS AND HIS VISIT, OTHER THAN THE CONVENIENCE OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE "APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY" OF HIS ATTENDANCE OF PERM FIVE ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A SUGGESTION THAT THE CHINESE ABSTENTION IN NEW YORK WAS LINKED TO THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO SEND SECRETARY BAKER TO BAGHDAD, QIAN REPLIED THAT HE PERCEIVED NO SUCH LINK. QIAN NOTED THAT HE WAS

THE ONLY FOREIGN MINISTER AMONG THE FIFTEEN SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO HAD TRAVELED TO BAGHDAD RECENTLY, AND HE CONVEYED HIS SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO SEND SECRETARY BAKER THERE.

6. STILL A CHANCE FOR PEACE?

QIAN OBSERVED THAT DURING THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECENT TALKS IN BAGHDAD, SADDAM SAID HE COULD BE FLEXIBLE AND COULD BE WILLING TO MAKE SACRIFICES FOR PEACE AS LONG AS HE OBTAINED APPROPRIATE GUARANTEES, BUT SADDAM HAD NOT

ELABORATED.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

7. PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT PAST CHINESE CHARGES THAT THE US SOUGHT TO UNDERMINE CHINA'S SOCIALIST SYSTEM BY PEACEFUL EVOLUTION, QIAN SAID THAT THE US AND CHINA HAD DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND HAD TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE; OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL BENEFIT; OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHERS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS; AND OF MUTUAL RESPECT.

8. WILL SANCTIONS BE LIFTED?

QIAN STATED THAT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN BEIJING'S POSITION THAT US SANCTIONS AGAINST CHINA SHOULD BE LIFTED. HE NOTED THAT SANCTIONS WERE HARMFUL TO BOTH CHINA AND TO THE US. QIAN STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC DURING HIS VISIT.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS: SCHIFTER VISIT A PRC CONCESSION?

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QIAN STATED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES MENTIONED BY A QUESTIONER BELONG SOLELY TO CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE SAID THAT DURING HIS TALKS, US OFFICIALS TOLD HIM THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WERE ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF US FOREIGN POLICY. QIAN EXPRESSED RESPECT FOR THIS, BUT AFFIRMED THAT THE CORNERSTONE FOR CHINA IS ITS INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY OF PEACE. QIAN SAID THAT THERE ARE SOME ISSUES WHERE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT NEED TO BE CLEARED UP IN ORDER TO COME TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. IN THIS CONTEXT, QIAN EXPRESSED WELCOME TO US OFFICIALS TO GO TO BEIJING TO MEET THEIR OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHIFTER.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT CHINA'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHARGES AGAINST ALLEGED POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, QIAN SAID HE HAD EXPLAINED TO SECRETARY BAKER THAT EVEN HE, AS FOREIGN MINISTER, DID NOT HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF ALL THAT WAS HAPPENING INSIDE CHINA, SO BAKER'S APPRECIATION MUST BE EVEN LESS CLEAR. WHEN PRC SUPERVISORY DEPARTMENTS OR THE COURTS IN CHINA ENGAGE IN

LEGAL PROCEDURES, NO OTHER CHINESE DEPARTMENTS--MUCH LESS FOREIGN COUNTRIES' GOVERNMENTS--CAN INTERFERE IN THESE INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS' WORK QIAN NOTED.

10. INVITATIONS ALSO TO BAKER, KIMMITT, AND BARTHOLOMEW

QIAN RESPONDED TO A QUESTION ON THE LIKELY SUBJECT OF U/S BARTHOLOMEW'S PROSPECTIVE VISIT BY NOTING THAT AN AGENDA FOR SUCH A TRIP HAD NOT BEEN WORKED OUT YET. QIAN MENTIONED THAT HE HAD EXTENDED INVITATIONS TO SECRETARY BAKER, U/S KIMMITT, AND U/S BARTHOLOMEW TO VISIT CHINA. QIAN SAID THAT THE CHINESE POSITION CONCERNING SUCH VISITS WAS "THE MORE THE BETTER."

11. TAIWAN ISSUE NOT RAISED

QIAN SAID THAT TAIWAN ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED BECAUSE OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ARE CLEAR TO EACH OTHER. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, QIAN MENTIONED THAT CHINA'S ACCESION TO THE GATT WAS DISCUSSED DURING HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY ROSEBACHER, BUT HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

NEW WORLD ORDER

12. US AND USSR SEEK BIG POWER MONOPOLY

QIAN DESCRIBED THE WORLD ORDER IN THE PAST AS ONE CHARACTERIZED BY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION, AND NOW THERE IS COOPERATION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW. QIAN SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND USSR SOUGHT A MONOPOLY OF BIG POWERS IN THE WORLD. IN CONTRAST, QIAN SAID CHINA BELIEVES THAT IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER ALL COUNTRIES--BIG OR SMALL, STRONG OR WEAK, RICH OR POOR--SHOULD BE EQUALS. BAKER

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